

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105650

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,PARM, UN

SUBJECT: EXPERTS' REPORT ON INDIAN OCEAN: PROPOSED
RESPONSE

1. IN VIEW OF MAY 22 DEADLINE FOR CORRECTION OF EXPERTS'
REPORT ON GREAT POWER MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN,
DEPT WISHES IF POSSIBLE GET EARLY ADVICE OF AUSTRALIA AND
UK TO FOLLOWING PLAN FOR US HANDLING: (A) ON MAY 22, OR AS
SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE, US WOULD INFORM SYG IN WRITING
AND ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT IN NY CHARACTERIZING REPORT AS
"SERIOUSLY UNBALANCED AND FACTUALLY INACCURATE"; (B) NO
EFFORT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME TO REVISE
REPORT, AS OUR PARTICIPATION IN REVISION MIGHT POSE
SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH OUR FRIENDS OF CLEARANCE OF
POLITICAL JUDGMENTS AND MILITARY INFORMATION; (C) WE OF
COURSE WOULD NOT ASK TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING OF INDIAN
OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE, WHICH CONVENES IN NY ON JUNE 3,
NOR WOULD WE PLAN TO ASK ANY MEMBER MAKE STATEMENT THERE ON
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OUR BEHALF; (D) WE ARE, HOWEVER, PREPARING DETAILED

CRITIQUE OF THAT MATERIAL IN REPORT DEALING WITH US INSTALLATIONS FOR POSSIBLE LATER USE (WE WILL CONSULT WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED BEFORE ANY PUBLIC USE).

2. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF US STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE:

QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS THAT THE EXPERTS' REPORT (DOC. A/AC. 159/1) IS A SERIOUSLY UNBALANCED AND FACTUALLY INACCURATE ACCOUNT OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE REPORT GROSSLY DISTORTS THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THAT AREA BY ITS INCLUSION OF SPECULATIVE MATERIAL, INCORRECT INFORMATION, AND INTERPRETIVE CONCLUSIONS NOT CALLED FOR BY GA RESOLUTION 3080 (XXVIII). IN SO DOING, IT EXCEEDS THE MANDATE GIVEN THE EXPERTS UNDER THAT RESOLUTION AND CARRIES IMPLICATIONS WHICH THE UNITED STATES CANNOT ACCEPT. END QUOTE

3. WE BELIEVE TACTICS OUTLINED IN PARA ONE APPROPRIATE SINCE EXERTS' REPORT HAS CAUSED CONCERN IN SURPRISINGLY DIVERSE QUARTERS. BRITISH ARE CONCERNED OVER REFERENCES TO THEIR ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY US-UK WORK AT DIEGO GARCIA; AUSTRALIANS FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT BY MANY REFERENCES TO US STATIONS IN AUSTRALIA; SOVIETS APPARENTLY PLAN TO PROTEST TO SECRETARIAT; AND TANZANIANS, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING CHINESE VIEW, HAVE LOUDLY PROTESTED SPECULATIVE REFERENCES TO CHINESE "BASE" IN ZANZIBAR. WE HAVE OWN OBJECTIONS PRIMARILY OVER DEPICTION OF UNITED STATES AS EXTERNAL GREAT POWER RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING ACTION-REACTION CYCLE OF US AND SOVIET PRESENCES IN AREA.

4. BREADTH OF CONCERN OVER REPORT EMBARRASSED SECRETARIAT AND PROMPTED MAY 17 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "IN VIEW OF THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE FACTUAL BASIS OF CERTAIN PARTS OF THE REPORT, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE IT REVIEWED# AND CORRECTIONS MADE. (IT NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHO HAS FINAL WORD ON ACCEPTANCE OF CORRECTIONS.) CORRECTIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY MAY 22 OR, FAILING THAT, AT LEAST NOTIFICATION THAT CORRECTIONS ARE TO BE PROVIDED.
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5. AS INDICATED ABOVE, OPENING OF REPORT FOR CORRECTIONS RAISES OPPORTUNITIES AND PROBLEMS FOR US. NOT CLEAR HOW REPORT, WHICH LIKELY TO OCCUPY CENTER STAGE AT JUNE 3 SESSION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL BE HANDLED. DEPT BELIEVES (A) TIME INADEQUATE TO FORMULATE WELL THOUGHT-OUT CORRECTIONS BEFORE MAY 22 DEADLINE, AND (B) EVEN IF WE COULD, THERE ADVANTAGES IN NOT DOING SO SINCE IT UNLIKELY

WE COULD GET REVISIONS ACCEPTED WHICH PORTRAY INSTALLATIONS AND POLICIES OF US, FRIENDS, AND ADVERSARIES IN APPROPRIATE LIGHT.

6. FOR LONDON AND CANBERRA: WOULD APPRECIATE REACTION SOONEST OF GOA AND HMG TO STATEMENT AND TACTICS DESCRIBED

ABOVE. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW THESE GOVERNMENTS PLAN TO PROCEED, PARTICULARLY RE POSSIBLE CORRECTION OF REPORT.

7. FOR USUN: WE NEED SOONEST NOT ONLY YOUR OWN VIEWS BUT ALSO THOSE OF UKUN AND AUSTRALIAN MISSION. IN VIEW SHORTAGE OF TIME, HOWEVER, DEPT DECIDED ALSO TO SEEK VIEWS OF GOA AND HMG CONCURRENTLY. RUSH

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